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“Go big or go home”: Coastal GasLink and local caterer team up to celebrate major construction milestone

In September, the Coastal GasLink team came together with workers, partners, Indigenous and local community leadership to commemorate the completion of the Wilde Lake Compressor Station.

As Jessica Quintal reflects on the journey that led her to cater Coastal GasLink’s celebration, she laughs: “It was go big or go home! I was seven months pregnant, quit my full-time job, and we’ve been going strong for three and half years. It was a lot of trial and error, but look at us now.”

Jessica and her grandmother own Mary Jane’s Kitchen and Catering, an Indigenous-owned, family-run business located in Fort St. John. Their team served up a delicious meal to more than 200 people gathered to celebrate the completion of the facility, near Dawson Creek.

“I was really happy when Coastal GasLink reached out to me,” said Jessica. “We have done big events before, but it was really exciting to work with [them] on this milestone.”

Affectionately referred to as the beating heart of the Project, the completed facility was the result of a team of 500 dedicated women and



The team celebrates the exciting milestone completion of the Wilde Lake Compressor Station.

men who placed safety and respect for all people and the environment at the forefront.

As drummers from Doig River First Nation performed a traditional drum song to bless the site for safe operations, Coastal GasLink’s President Bevin Wirzba expressed his gratitude to all those who had a hand in the milestone. “We are reminded that while the Wilde Lake facility will serve as the beating heart of the natural gas infrastructure, it is the relationships we hold with our Indigenous and local communities that are the beating heart of our legacy.”

“While this is the end of construction at Wilde Lake,” Wirzba noted, “it is just the beginning of more opportunity. Looking forward, our team will continue

to have a lasting presence here in the region, providing local employment and benefits for decades to come.”

And Jessica and her family are looking forward to the future. “There are a lot of benefits that are coming in from this project...a lot of doors opening for people like me. It’s good to be a part of it,” says Jessica.

As Coastal GasLink approaches 75% overall completion, the team looks forward to celebrating more milestones with their Indigenous and community partners, as together they are building a legacy of safety and respect for all people and the environment – a legacy we can all be proud of.

Keep up to date about all project milestones and progress by checking out our **construction updates**.

Collaborating to restore local agriculture at former Vanderhoof lodge

When our team began engaging with Indigenous and local communities and governments over a decade ago, we collaborated on a reclamation plan based on feedback and input from communities along with accredited and experienced B.C. environmental specialists and experts.



Aerial view of the reclaimed Vanderhoof lodge site.

At the site of the former Vanderhoof workforce accommodation Lodge, Coastal GasLink has implemented extensive reclamation work to establish and restore agricultural productivity. What was once home for hundreds of workers, has been transformed into what will soon be almost 48 acres of viable farmland.

As part of the reclamation program at the Vanderhoof site, tillage radishes were planted on 16.5 acres of the area that was originally farmed. Tillage radishes were used because their deep roots can grow quickly and help break through compacted soils.

“The reclamation techniques were designed to improve the agricultural capability of the site and we will see

productive agriculture here going forward,” notes Patrick Boylan, Environmental Inspector.

Coastal GasLink worked in collaboration with local experts, including with McTavish Resource and Management Consultants Ltd.’s office in nearby Smithers, to implement nutrient management planning tools, and engaged a local agronomist to optimize future production.

“To see this through from start to end is important for me,” continues Patrick. “I take a lot of pride in the work that I do, and to have the stewardship of the site and see it be successful is something we can all be proud of.”

As Coastal GasLink construction nears completion in the next year, we’ll continue to work with many other Indigenous and local communities, and other local experts to ensure the highest standards of environmental protection as we work to build an extraordinary legacy of safety and respect for all people, communities and the environment.



[Learn More](#)

Learn more about the Vanderhoof reclamation initiative [here](#).

Leaving a lasting legacy

Coastal GasLink Legacy Donations supports long term wellness and recreation in communities.

The Coastal GasLink team feels lucky to be able to live, work and play in some of the most beautiful terrain that British Columbia has to offer. That's why we're excited to support the Mount Elizabeth Cycling Association with a legacy donation of \$25,000 to establish a network of mountain bike trails in and around the community of Kitimat.



Coastal GasLink is proud to contribute to the creation of mountain bike trails across this epic terrain.

“Contributing to the development of this park is something that will benefit the members of this community for many years to come and encourage everyone to enjoy some local recreation and the beauty of their community,” said Kiel Giddens, Project Director of Public Affairs, Coastal GasLink.

Legacy donations go above and beyond our ongoing community investment initiatives as we strive to leave a lasting legacy in the communities that have hosted us since project construction commenced in 2019.

Coastal GasLink recently made several legacy donations in communities across the 670-kilometre project route, including \$50,000 towards the Vanderhoof Airport Infrastructure and terminal planning work. And at the eastern end of the route Coastal GasLink and prime contractor, Surerus Murphy Joint Venture (SMJV) came together this summer to each donate \$50,000 for a total of \$100,000 to support the construction of the new Chetwynd Public Library.

“Building strong and vibrant communities is part of the Extraordinary Legacy we intend to leave in each and every community across the Project route,” said Kiel.

Since 2021, we've contributed more than \$675,000 in Legacy donations across the project route to realize long-term positive outcomes for communities – donations that will continue as Coastal GasLink looks ahead to project completion at the end of 2023.

Making a positive impact, one recycled bottle at a time!

Coastal GasLink's bottle donation program donates proceeds from recycled bottles from our lodges to local organizations across Northern B.C.

By collaborating with our prime contractors, lodge providers and TC Energy's Empower program, more than \$200,000 has been donated back into local communities to date.

Recently, we had the opportunity to support Aws, a refugee from Ukraine

who recently joined the Michels Canada team on Section 6 as a welding apprentice.

Aws received assistance from the bottle donation program at 7 Mile Lodge to aid his family's transition to Canada. With more than 10 years of experience working in the energy industry as a Quality Control Engineer, Aws is now pursuing his welding ticket with help from the Michels team.

On Section 8E, we worked together with prime contractor, MSJV and lodge operator, Civeo, to help fund the Houston Hospice Society's marketing initiative to promote health services

in the region and neighbouring First Nations communities. The team also recently donated to support funding for the proposed grizzly enclosure at the Northern Lights Wildlife Centre.



Aws (middle) with his team on-site in Section 6.

Building extraordinary relationships with local governments at UBCM

Since 2013, our Public Affairs team has supported the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention, an annual forum for dialogue, learning and policymaking for local governments across the province.

The annual event provides a valuable opportunity to engage with local and provincial representatives and allows us to connect with our Coastal GasLink community partners to discuss topics of importance.

This year, Coastal GasLink was pleased to be back at the in-person convention in Whistler, BC. The Public Affairs team represented Coastal GasLink at the project booth and had the opportunity to meet with representatives from several municipalities such as the Village of Burns Lake and the District

of Kitimat. We discussed community investment legacy opportunities, project progress, as well as providing a platform to receive feedback from local governments.

Feedback from Indigenous and local communities has been instrumental in helping to shape the project being built today. We are always open to communities providing feedback, asking questions, or requesting follow-up discussions as part of the project's commitment to listen and learn along the way.



Members of our Public Affairs team were proud to foster informative discussions at the UBCM Convention.

In your community



Building a love of reading can help connect communities. Our team had a blast this summer supporting Summer Reading Programs at the Fort St. John Public Library, providing literacy programming for local community members of all ages.



Our public affairs team hit the road to visit workforce lodges across the Project route to raise funds for our Legacy of Giving campaign in support of the United Way of Northern B.C. Stay tuned for how much we raised!



Coastal GasLink is committed to engaging, listening and incorporating feedback from our Indigenous partners and neighbours. Pictured here is our team at the Wilde Lake Compressor Station showing their support for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

Coastal GasLink



We'd like to hear from you

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please reach out.

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